

Meaville June 20th 1892

Gentlemen,

I have had by me for several days your communication containing a Resolution of the Vestry of Christ Church, Philadelphia, appointing you a committee to correspond with me & ascertain whether I am willing to become an assistant Minister of that Church during the lifetime of the present Rector, & until the Easter following his decease; & if so, to engage on behalf of the Vestry to pay me, in case of my election, a salary of seventeen hundred dollars per annum, — and in performing this duty you are kind enough to wish a favourable, as well as a speedy answer.

My answer is not given as speedily as you might have expected; but your letter required deliberation. Deliberation was of course due to the importance of the subject presented; in this case, however, especially required because of the peculiar, & in some degree, embarrassing character of your communication. And to be candid, I felt at first a repugnance to answering the question whether I would accept if elected; but having weighed all the circumstances of the case, the difficulty on my mind has been removed, and I now feel at liberty to authorize you to communicate to the Vestry my answer in the affirmative.

In this stage of the business it is not necessary for me to say more than that I have a deep sense of the honour the

Vestry have conferred upon me in the Resolution they have passed, & of the friendly manner in which you have presented that Resolution.

As to the Salary, I can form no idea of what would be necessary to my support in the City. I desire nothing beyond a decent living, & if the sum specified is, in the judgment of the Vestry, sufficient for that, I shall be perfectly satisfied. — I have thought it proper to say this much, as the amount of Salary is a particular in the proposition made to me.

That God may both direct & bless all that you begin, continue, & end, for the prosperity of the Church with which you are connected, & for which you are acting, and continue to preserve to you, in your venerable Rector, a safe guide & instructor is my fervent prayer.

I am, Gentlemen, very respectfully,

your humble
friend and servant,

Ans. W. James

Charles Wheeler
Philip N. Nicklin, and
John White, Esquires, } Committee &c.
Philadelphia

Safe 9.
Recd June 26 32 / 84
W. 8 P.M.

Charles Wheeler Esq



Philadelphia

Rev. John W. James, letter
Wheatville, June 20, 1832
received June 29/32
sent by mail
Wheatville

To Henry J. Butchers, Esq. acting
warden of Christ Church.

Dear Sir. We have received an affirmative answer to our application to the Revd. Mr. James. And respectfully request you to call a meeting of Vestry: stating upon the notices that the meeting is particularly convened to consider of the election of a permanent minister.

Respectfully yours

Perla June 27. 1832. Charles Wheeler,

Philip H. Noddin -
Hor: Bunnell

To Mr. Henry J. Hutchins

June 27. 1832. Notice from B
Festymen to call a special meeting
for the election of a permanent minister.

(Copy)

Philad^a. June 30th 1832.

Rev^d & Dear Sir,

We have great pleasure in performing the office committed to us by the Vestry of Christ Church, by making known to you, that at a meeting held last evening, you were duly elected an Assistant Minister of that Church, upon the terms heretofore communicated to you by a Committee. All elections, whether of Rector or Ministers by the Vestry, are by the By laws of this Church, subject to a negative by a majority of the Congregation, within one month after notice, which will be given from the desk to-morrow; but, making such allowance for this circumstance as you may think expedient, it will give us much satisfaction to learn that you will be able within a reasonable time to enter upon your Office, and to be informed by you the earliest day at which it is probable that we may again see you in this City. Heartily concurring in this measure of our Vestry, we need not assure you, that we shall personally greet you on your arrival as friends & brethren, and that we look to this connection, as a means, with the blessing of God, of promoting all the religious interests of our Church.

We are, Rev^d & Dear Sir,

Very respectfully,

Your friends & servants

Signed Hor: Binney } Wardens of
Henry J. Hutchins } Christ Church
Phil^a

Rev^d John W. James.

Copy of letter from Ch. Wardens of
Christ Church to Rev Mr John W James
Meadeville advising him of his election as
Assistant Minister June 30, 1832

Meadville July 25th 1832

Gentlemen,

I have received from you the announcement of my election to be an Assistant Minister of Christ Church Philad^a: of which you are Wardens, with a sense of the humble manner in which I shall be able to perform the duties of that office. In accepting it I am not forgetful of the high character of the ministrations to which the congregation of that Church has been accustomed, nor of him especially, who by the blessing of God is still over you in the Lord, & who by his long-continued, faithful, and inestimable services, has surrounded his character with so much veneration & true renown.

I shall bring with me small abilities indeed for assisting him, or benefiting you, - but if I come with a simple & hearty desire to use to the utmost whatever abilities I may have in the service to which it has pleased God to call me, - actuated on the one hand by the humility which made the apostle ask, "Who is sufficient for these things?" - and on the other by the faith which enabled him confidently to persevere, saying, "I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me," - I shall hope for confidence, approbation, & support.

If I fail it will be in a cause in which the humblest exertions will be rewarded by Him who will not forget a cup of cold water administered to one of the least of his disciples. Besides this I am reminded of the dignity & importance of my office, the same divine Order of the Church having declared

(which when the ministry is in question should never be lost sight of) that he will be with that Ministry to the end of the world. While however we bear a "treasure", and are to be "esteemed in love for our works' sake", yet we are "earthen vessels".

Deficiencies in the execution of my office will be personal deficiencies, and for them I must ask every indulgence that can be extended to me; — they may be more and greater than the congregation is aware of in one who has been known to it so short a time. Here however your assurance, for which I feel very grateful, that you "will greet me on my arrival as friends & brethren", gives me great satisfaction — it also inspires me with confidence to hope that if I earn in any degree deserve the kindness I shall experience, "the connection" will indeed "be a means with the blessing of God of promoting all the religious interests of your Church".

The state of Mrs James' health which has been for several weeks uncommonly bad has prevented me from informing you earlier than this at what time I shall be in Philada. And even now I cannot for the same reason fix the time with any exactness, and can only mention about the middle of September as most probable. In the beginning of that month our Assistant Bishop will be here and I could not without injury to my present Charge go away before his visitation. After that my duties in this parish will be finished, and Mrs J.'s health will also I hope be good enough for her to travel, or at least for me to leave her without much anxiety until she could join me in Philad. — I beg regret the length of this interval

because it embraces being out of the city, and this delay will I suppose of the place I am

I will only say in this connection has convinced in the course give me great pleasure the most gratifying to express the gratifying, and especially

That the blessing and upon what is now to me, the Church

Very respectfully

Horace Binney
Mr. Henry J.

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because it embraces the month of August, when I should prefer
being out of the city, and when many families of the Congrega-
tion will probably have left their homes. For the same reason
this delay will I suppose cause less inconvenience in the sup-
ply of the place I am to fill.

I will only say in conclusion that the manner in which
this connection has been formed, and the very friendly spirit
evinced in the correspondence by which it has been formed,
give me great pleasure, and will afford me through life
the most gratifying recollections. I need add nothing more
to express the grateful sentiments I entertain towards the
Bociety, and especially, Gentlemen, towards yourselves.

That the blessing of God Almighty may be upon us all,
and upon what is now a subject of common interest to you
& to me, the Church you represent, is the fervent ejaculation

Very respectfully,

Your friend & servant,

Geo. W. James

Horace Binney Esq. and } Wardens
Mr. Henry J. Hutchins } Christ Ch.
Phil^a

Rev. John W. James
Meadville 25th July 1832
Recd. 31st " - "

Meadville 18th
26 July
Horace Binney Esq.

Philadelphia

Shiloh Nov 7th 1832

Dr Sir

Your communication of the 6th Instth has been received. In conformity with the Resolution which it conveys, I will place my Resignation in the hands of the Rector on or before the 8th of the present month. It is of course understood, and so I interpret the Resolution, that my present Salary will be paid to that day; and the Annuity will commence at the same time, and will be received in full for all claims upon the Corporation on account of Salary or for any other cause whatever.

I am

Yrs

Jas Abercrombie.

Henry J. Hutchins Esq^r

Rev James Abernombie's letter
November 7th 1832
Rec^d same evening.

Henry J. Hutchins Esq^r

Right Rev & Dear Sir

Agreeably to the Terms
of the inclosed Resolution, I hereby tender
to you, on behalf of the Corporation of Christ-
Church, my Resignation as Assistant
Minister: and remain

Yr Rev^d and D^r Serv^t,

With the most profound respect

Yr mo. Noble Serv^t

J^{as} Abercrombie

Philad^a Nov 7th

1832

27

The Right Rev^d William White, D.D.
Rector of Christ Church, St. Peter's & St. James's
Bishop of the Protst Epis^t Church
in the State of
Pennsylvania.

Rev^d Jas Abercrombie's
letter of resignation
Novem^r 7th 1832..

(Copy)

Extract from the Minutes of a special meeting of the Vestry of Christ-Church, held at ^{the} house of the Rector, on Monday evening, the 5th day of November 1832.

"Resolved, " That in case the Reverend D^r James Abercrombie, shall resign his office as Assistant Minister of this Church, the Corporation will pay to him during his life, if he shall so long continue in the Ministry, the sum of six hundred Dollars per annum, in four quarterly payments of one hundred and fifty Dollars each. The same to be in full for all claims upon the Corporation on account of salary or for any other cause whatever. Provided always, that this Resolution shall become void & of no effect, unless such Resignation be made to the Rector, on behalf of the Vestry before the ninth day of the present month."

"Ordered" that the Wardens send a copy of this Resolution to the Rev^d Abercrombie."

A true Copy from the Minutes

Henry J. Hutchins
Secretary

Philad^a Novemb^r 6th 1832.